

August 17, 2015

Dane Mathis
Senior Engineering Geologist
Department of Water Resources
Division of Integrated Regional Water Management
South Central Region Office
3374 E Shields Ave
Fresno, CA 93726
Sent via email: Dane.Mathis@water.ca.gov

RE: Support for Designating the Soquel Valley Basin as Being in Critical Overdraft

Dear Mr. Mathis:

Thank you for the courtesy of informing Soquel Creek Water District (SqCWD) of the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) plan to include the Soquel Valley basin in the draft list of critically overdrafted basins that you are presenting at the August 19th California Water Commission meeting. The SqCWD Board discussed this "critical overdraft" designation at our last board meeting on August 11th and unanimously decided to send DWR a letter showing our support for your actions to recommend the critical overdraft designation.

We concur with DWR that data support the Soquel Valley basin be designated as critically overdrafted since groundwater levels have been persistently below sea level in areas for many years and seawater intrusion is occurring at our coastline. Seawater has been detected in monitoring wells at both ends of the SqCWD service area. The Board of Directors voted in 2014 to declare a state of Groundwater Emergency based on the data provided by our hydrologist and a third-party peer review.

SqCWD is the largest pumper of the Soquel-Aptos basin and is working with all stakeholders to resolve the critical water shortage and seawater intrusion issues. We understand the critical overdraft designation dictates the Groundwater Sustainability Agency would need their Groundwater Sustainability Plan completed two years earlier (by January 31, 2020) than basins not in critical overdraft and that the timeframe for reaching sustainability would be reduced by two years (i.e. by year 2040 instead of 2042). It appears to be the intent of the local GSA Formation Subcommittee members to achieve the required milestones within the timeframe as required for basins classified as critically overdrafted.

Please share this letter with the appropriate people. I would like to close with a special note of thanks to you. Staff has informed me that you've been incredibly responsive and informative and have attended one of our Mid-County Groundwater Stakeholder meetings.

Sincerely,



Dr. Bruce Daniels
Board President
Soquel Creek Water District